



State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

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September 1, 2004

To All Utah Registered Health Care Assistants:

As most of you are aware, the next expiration date for an individual registered by DOPL as a health care assistant is November 30, 2004. However, DOPL has chosen to extend this expiration date to May 31, 2005.

Therefore, any person with an active registration, that is in good standing, as of November 30, 2004, will automatically be extended for an additional six months to May 31, 2005.

The reason for this deadline extension is to await possible legislative action regarding health care assistant registration. The Health and Human Services Interim Committee of the Utah Legislature has recommended the discontinuation of health care assistant registration. The Department of Health requires an extensive review of any employee who will be providing hands on care to a client in any regulated facility. It is believed that the health care assistant registration required by DOPL is a duplication of the services provided by the Department of Health. Therefore, in the interest of efficiency in government and regulation, the health care assistant registration is not necessary.

Consequently, rather than renewing all health care assistant registrations, DOPL has decided to extend the renewal period for a period of time to determine any changes that may occur during the 2005 Utah Legislative Session. Should the legislature choose not to eliminate the registration of health care assistants, every person with an active health care assistant registration as of March 30, 2005, will be sent a renewal notice.

Since we will not be sending out new registration certificates with the extended May 31, 2005, expiration date, it is recommended that you keep a copy of this letter with your blue license certificate. Copies of this letter should also be given to your employer(s).

Finally, we strongly recommend that you keep abreast of this issue by visiting our website at www.dopl.utah.gov. Any changes to the health care assistant registration law will be reported on the DOPL website.

Sincerely,

Laura Poe, Assistant Director, DOPL